

U.S. Department of Justice

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District of Maryland
Southern Division
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DEPUTY
January 10, 2019

Julie Reamy, Esq.
10 South St.,
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: *United States v. Michael A. Watts*
Criminal No. RDB-18-0271

Dear Counsel:

This letter, together with the Sealed Supplement, confirms the plea agreement (this "Agreement") that has been offered to your client, Michael A. Watts (hereinafter "Defendant"), by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland ("this Office"). If the Defendant accepts this offer, please have the Defendant execute it in the spaces provided below. If this offer has not been accepted by January 18, 2019, it will be deemed withdrawn. The terms of the Agreement are as follows:

Offense of Conviction

1. The Defendant agrees to plead guilty to Count 2 of the Superseding Indictment, which charges the Defendant with Robbery Affecting Commerce, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a). The Defendant admits that the Defendant is, in fact, guilty of the offense and will so advise the Court.

Elements of the Offense

2. The elements of the offense to which the Defendant has agreed to plead guilty, and which this Office would prove if the case went to trial, are as follows:

That on or about the time alleged in the Superseding Indictment, in the District of Maryland,

Count 2 (Robbery Affecting Commerce)

a. First, that the defendant knowingly obtained or took the personal property of another, or from the presence of another;

b. Second, that the defendant took this property against the victim's will, by actual or threatened force, violence, or fear of injury, whether immediately or in the future; and

c. Third, that as a result of the defendant's actions, interstate commerce, or an item moving in interstate commerce, was delayed, obstructed, or affected in any way or degree.

Penalties

3. The maximum penalties provided by statute for the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty are as follows:

Count	Statute	Minimum Prison	Maximum Prison	Supervised Release	Maximum Fine	Special Assessment
2	18 U.S.C. § 1951(a)	N/A	20 years	3 years	\$250,000	\$100

a. Prison: If the Court orders a term of imprisonment, the Bureau of Prisons has sole discretion to designate the institution at which it will be served.

b. Supervised Release: If the Court orders a term of supervised release, and the Defendant violates the conditions of supervised release, the Court may order the Defendant returned to custody to serve a term of imprisonment as permitted by statute, followed by an additional term of supervised release.

c. Restitution: The Court may order the Defendant to pay restitution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663, 3663A, and 3664.

d. Payment: If a fine or restitution is imposed, it shall be payable immediately, unless the Court orders otherwise under 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d). The Defendant may be required to pay interest if the fine is not paid when due.

e. Forfeiture: The Court may enter an order of forfeiture of assets directly traceable to the offense, substitute assets, and/or a money judgment equal to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

f. Collection of Debts: If the Court imposes a fine or restitution, this Office's Financial Litigation Unit will be responsible for collecting the debt. If the Court establishes a schedule of payments, the Defendant agrees that: (1) the full amount of the fine or restitution is nonetheless due and owing immediately; (2) the schedule of payments is merely a minimum schedule of payments and not the only method, nor a limitation on the methods, available to the United States to enforce the judgment; and (3) the United States may fully employ all powers to collect on the total amount of the debt as provided by law. Until the debt is paid, the Defendant agrees to disclose all assets in which the Defendant has any interest or over which the Defendant exercises direct or indirect control. Until the money judgment is satisfied, the Defendant authorizes this Office to obtain a credit report in order to evaluate the Defendant's ability to pay, and to request and review the Defendant's federal and state income tax returns. The Defendant

agrees to complete and sign a copy of IRS Form 8821 (relating to the voluntary disclosure of federal tax return information) and a financial statement in a form provided by this Office.

Waiver of Rights

4. The Defendant understands that by entering into this Agreement, the Defendant surrenders certain rights as outlined below:

a. If the Defendant had pled not guilty and persisted in that plea, the Defendant would have had the right to a speedy jury trial with the close assistance of competent counsel. That trial could be conducted by a judge, without a jury, if the Defendant, this Office, and the Court all agreed.

b. If the Defendant elected a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve individuals selected from the community. Counsel and the Defendant would have the opportunity to challenge prospective jurors who demonstrated bias or who were otherwise unqualified, and would have the opportunity to strike a certain number of jurors peremptorily. All twelve jurors would have to agree unanimously before the Defendant could be found guilty of any count. The jury would be instructed that the Defendant was presumed to be innocent, and that presumption could be overcome only by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

c. If the Defendant went to trial, the Government would have the burden of proving the Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the Government's witnesses. The Defendant would not have to present any defense witnesses or evidence whatsoever. If the Defendant wanted to call witnesses in defense, however, the Defendant would have the subpoena power of the Court to compel the witnesses to attend.

d. The Defendant would have the right to testify in the Defendant's own defense if the Defendant so chose, and the Defendant would have the right to refuse to testify. If the Defendant chose not to testify, the Court could instruct the jury that they could not draw any adverse inference from the Defendant's decision not to testify.

e. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, the Defendant would have the right to appeal the verdict and the Court's pretrial and trial decisions on the admissibility of evidence to see if any errors were committed which would require a new trial or dismissal of the charges. By pleading guilty, the Defendant knowingly gives up the right to appeal the verdict and the Court's decisions.

f. By pleading guilty, the Defendant will be giving up all of these rights, except the right, under the limited circumstances set forth in the "Waiver of Appeal" paragraph below, to appeal the sentence. By pleading guilty, the Defendant understands that the Defendant may have to answer the Court's questions both about the rights being given up and about the facts of the case. Any statements that the Defendant makes during such a hearing would not be admissible against the Defendant during a trial except in a criminal proceeding for perjury or false statement.

g. If the Court accepts the Defendant's plea of guilty, the Defendant will be giving up the right to file and have the Court rule on pretrial motions, and there will be no further trial or proceeding of any kind in the above-referenced criminal case, and the Court will find the Defendant guilty.

h. By pleading guilty, the Defendant will also be giving up certain valuable civil rights and may be subject to deportation or other loss of immigration status, including possible denaturalization. The Defendant recognizes that if the Defendant is not a citizen of the United States, or is a naturalized citizen, pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to the Defendant's immigration status. Under federal law, conviction for a broad range of crimes can lead to adverse immigration consequences, including automatic removal from the United States. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including the Defendant's attorney or the Court, can predict with certainty the effect of a conviction on immigration status. The Defendant is not relying on any promise or belief about the immigration consequences of pleading guilty. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that the Defendant wants to plead guilty regardless of any potential immigration consequences.

Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Apply

5. The Defendant understands that the Court will determine a sentencing guidelines range for this case (henceforth the "advisory guidelines range") pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 at 18 U.S.C. § 3551-3742 (excepting 18 U.S.C. § 3553(b)(1) and 3742(e)) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 991 through 998. The Defendant further understands that the Court will impose a sentence pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act, as excised, and must take into account the advisory guidelines range in establishing a reasonable sentence.

Factual and Advisory Guidelines Stipulation

6. This Office and the Defendant stipulate and agree to the Statement of Facts set forth in Attachment A, which is incorporated by reference herein.

Count 2 (Robbery Affecting Commerce)

a. This Office and the Defendant agree that the applicable base offense level is 20 pursuant to United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G.") § 2B3.1(a).

b. This Office and the Defendant further agree that there is a 2 level increase pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(1) because the taking of the property of a financial institution was the object of the offense.

c. This Office and the Defendant further agree that there is a 5 level increase pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(2)(C)) because a firearm was brandished.

d. This Office and the Defendant further agree that there is a 2 level increase pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(4)(B)) because a person was restrained to facilitate commission of the offense or to facilitate escape.

e. This Office and the Defendant further agree that there is a 1 level increase pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(6) because a firearm was taken.

f. This Office and the Defendant further agree that there is a 3 level increase pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 2B3.1(b)(7)(D) because the loss exceeded \$500,000 but was less than \$1,500,000.

g. Thus, the combined offense level is 33.

h. Acceptance of Responsibility: This Office does not oppose a two level reduction in the Defendant's adjusted offense level pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), based upon the Defendant's apparent prompt recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the Defendant's criminal conduct. This Office agrees to make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b) for an additional one level decrease in recognition of the Defendant's timely notification of the Defendant's intention to enter a plea of guilty. This Office may oppose any adjustment for acceptance of responsibility under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a) and may decline to make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), if the Defendant: (i) fails to admit each and every item in the factual stipulation; (ii) denies involvement in the offense; (iii) gives conflicting statements about the Defendant's involvement in the offense; (iv) is untruthful with the Court, this Office, or the United States Probation Office; (v) obstructs or attempts to obstruct justice prior to sentencing; (vi) engages in any criminal conduct between the date of this Agreement and the date of sentencing; (vii) attempts to withdraw the plea of guilty; or (viii) violates this Agreement in any way.

i. Accordingly, the anticipated adjusted offense level is 30.

7. There is no agreement as to the Defendant's criminal history and the Defendant understands that the Defendant's criminal history could alter the Defendant's offense level. Specifically, the Defendant understands that the Defendant's criminal history could alter the final offense level if the Defendant is determined to be a career offender or if the instant offense was a part of a pattern of criminal conduct from which the Defendant derived a substantial portion of the Defendant's income.

8. Other than as set forth above, no other offense characteristics, sentencing guidelines factors, potential departures or adjustments set forth in the United States Sentencing Guidelines are in dispute or will be raised in calculating the advisory guidelines range.

Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Plea

9. The parties stipulate and agree pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(C) that a sentence within the **range of 87 to 108 months** is the appropriate disposition of this case taking into consideration the nature and circumstances of the offense, the Defendant's

criminal history, and all of the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). This Agreement does not affect the Court's discretion to order restitution or impose any lawful conditions of supervised release. In the event that the Court rejects this Agreement, except under the circumstances noted below, either party may elect to declare the Agreement null and void. Should the Defendant so elect, the Defendant will be afforded the opportunity to withdraw his plea pursuant to the provisions of Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(5). The parties agree that if the Court finds that the Defendant engaged in obstructive or unlawful behavior and/or failed to acknowledge personal responsibility as set forth herein, neither the Court nor the Government will be bound by the specific sentence contained in this Agreement, and the Defendant will not be able to withdraw his plea. After sentencing, this Office agrees to dismiss any open counts of the indictment as to this defendant.

Waiver of Appeal

10. In exchange for the concessions made by this Office and the Defendant in this Agreement, this Office and the Defendant waive their rights to appeal as follows:

a. The Defendant knowingly waives all right, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1291 or any other statute or constitutional provision, to appeal the Defendant's conviction on any ground whatsoever. This includes a waiver of all right to appeal the Defendant's conviction on the ground that the statute(s) to which the Defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional, or on the ground that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s), to the extent that such challenges legally can be waived.

b. The Defendant and this Office knowingly and expressly waive all rights conferred by 18 U.S.C. § 3742 to appeal whatever sentence is imposed (including any term of imprisonment, fine, term of supervised release, or order of restitution) for any reason (including the establishment of the advisory sentencing guidelines range, the determination of the Defendant's criminal history, the weighing of the sentencing factors, and any constitutional challenges to the calculation and imposition of any term of imprisonment, fine, order of forfeiture, order of restitution, and term or condition of supervised release), except as follows:

i. The Defendant reserves the right to appeal any sentence that exceeds the statutory maximum; and

ii. This Office reserves the right to appeal any sentence below 87 months.

c. The Defendant waives any and all rights under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the investigation and prosecution of the above-captioned matter and agrees not to file any request for documents from this Office or any investigating agency.

Defendant's Conduct Prior to Sentencing and Breach

11. Between now and the date of the sentencing, the Defendant will not engage in conduct that constitutes obstruction of justice under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1; will not violate any federal,

state, or local law; will acknowledge guilt to the probation officer and the Court; will be truthful in any statement to the Court, this Office, law enforcement agents, and probation officers; will cooperate in the preparation of the presentence report; and will not move to withdraw from the plea of guilty or from this Agreement.

12. If the Defendant engages in conduct prior to sentencing that violates the above paragraph of this Agreement, and the Court finds a violation by a preponderance of the evidence, then: (i) this Office will be free from its obligations under this Agreement; (ii) this Office may make sentencing arguments and recommendations different from those set out in this Agreement, even if the Agreement was reached pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C); and (iii) in any criminal or civil proceeding, this Office will be free to use against the Defendant all statements made by the Defendant and any of the information or materials provided by the Defendant, including statements, information, and materials provided pursuant to this Agreement, and statements made during proceedings before the Court pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. A determination that this Office is released from its obligations under this Agreement will not permit the Defendant to withdraw the guilty plea. The Defendant acknowledges that the Defendant may not withdraw the Defendant's guilty plea—even if made pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C)—if the Court finds that the Defendant breached the Agreement. In that event, neither the Court nor the Government will be bound by the specific sentence or sentencing range agreed and stipulated to herein pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C).

Restitution And Forfeiture

13. The Defendant agrees to the entry of a restitution order for the full amount of the victims' losses. The Defendant agrees that, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A and 3563(b)(2) and 3583(d), the Court may order restitution of the full amount of the actual, total loss caused by the offense conduct set forth in the factual stipulation, which the parties stipulate is at least \$1,324,288.00. The total amount of restitution shall be due immediately and shall be ordered to be paid forthwith. Any payment schedule imposed by the Court establishes only a minimum obligation. Defendant will make a good faith effort to pay any restitution. Regardless of Defendant's compliance, any payment schedule does not limit the United States' ability to collect additional amounts from Defendant through all available collection remedies at any time. The Defendant further agrees that the Defendant will fully disclose to this Office, the probation officer, and to the Court, subject to the penalty of perjury, all information (including but not limited to copies of all relevant bank and financial records) regarding the current location and prior disposition of all funds obtained as a result of the criminal conduct set forth in the factual stipulation. The Defendant further agrees to take all reasonable steps to retrieve or repatriate any such funds and to make them available for restitution. If the Defendant does not fulfill this provision, it will be considered a material breach of this Agreement, and this Office may seek to be relieved of its obligations under this Agreement. The Defendant also agrees to **forfeit** the \$388 cash that was on his person at the time of his arrest and jewelry that was also seized from him at the time of his arrest.

Court Not a Party

14. If the Court accepts the Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea it will be bound by the terms as stated above.

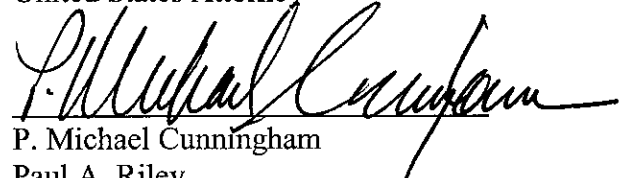
Entire Agreement

15. This letter, together with the Sealed Supplement, constitutes the complete plea agreement in this case. This letter, together with the Sealed Supplement, supersedes any prior understandings, promises, or conditions between this Office and the Defendant. There are no other agreements, promises, undertakings, or understandings between the Defendant and this Office other than those set forth in this letter and the Sealed Supplement. No changes to this Agreement will be effective unless in writing, signed by all parties and approved by the Court.

If the Defendant fully accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement, please sign and have the Defendant sign the original and return it to me promptly.

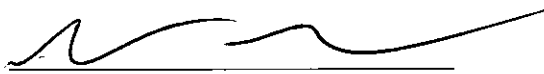
Very truly yours,

Robert K. Hur
United States Attorney


P. Michael Cunningham
Paul A. Riley
Assistant United States Attorneys

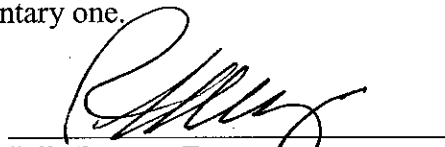
I have read this Agreement, including the Sealed Supplement, and carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand it and I voluntarily agree to it. Specifically, I have reviewed the Factual and Advisory Guidelines Stipulation with my attorney and I do not wish to change any part of it. I am completely satisfied with the representation of my attorney.

1/30/19
Date


Michael Watts

I am the Defendant's attorney. I have carefully reviewed every part of this Agreement, including the Sealed Supplement with the Defendant. The Defendant advises me that the Defendant understands and accepts its terms. To my knowledge, the Defendant's decision to enter into this Agreement is an informed and voluntary one.

1/30/19
Date


Julie Reamy, Esq.

ATTACHMENT A

STIPULATION OF FACTS

The undersigned parties stipulate and agree that if this case had proceeded to trial, this Office would have proven the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt. The undersigned parties also stipulate and agree that the following facts do not encompass all of the evidence that would have been presented had this matter proceeded to trial.

Michael Watts a/k/a "Turtle," age 42, is a resident of Brooklyn, New York. On Monday, January 22, 2018, at approximately 7:15 a.m., Watts and his co-defendants, Orneith South and Ryan Smith, robbed a Loomis Armored vehicle that was parked at a branch of the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) located at 1101 Mt. Hermon Road, Salisbury, Maryland of \$1,324,288.00.

While the Loomis vehicle driver was removing cash cassettes from the ATM at the SECU, Watts approached the driver, placed a gun to his head, and disarmed him of his service weapon. Watts then grabbed the driver by the hair and ordered him to open the door of the Loomis vehicle. After the driver did so, South and Smith approached and, along with Watts, removed several bags of money from the Loomis vehicle; they also stole ATM cassettes filled with cash.

Watts then removed zip ties from within clothing on his person, and South physically forced the Loomis vehicle driver in to the Loomis vehicle where South used the zip ties to secure the driver's hands.

Watts, Smith, and South then fled the area with bags of money and cash cassettes from the ATM, stealing \$1,324,288 in total. They then returned to Smith's residence in nearby Princess Anne, Maryland and divided the stolen money.

On May 18, 2018, Watts was arrested in Queens, New York on a warrant issued as a result of the Loomis robbery. Watts voluntarily waived his *Miranda* rights and agreed to speak with investigators. He confessed to his involvement in the robbery and admitted that he had conducted surveillance several times on the armored car that he ultimately robbed. Watts then explained how the robbery unfolded, telling investigators that:

- He carried zip-ties to restrain the driver and a handgun;
- He approached the driver, disarmed him, and grabbed the driver by the hair;
- He directed the driver back into the armored car, and the driver was then zip-tied and restrained;
- He then took bags of money from the armored car and a box containing cash from the open ATM;
- He used his portion of the stolen money to purchase a Mercedes S430, jewelry, clothes, two tombstones, and to pay off bills and rent;
- At the time of his arrest, he was wearing approximately \$70,000 in jewelry, including a custom turtle pendant.

At the time of the robbery, Loomis Armored was engaged in the business of cash-handling products and services to financial institutions and commercial/retail businesses nationwide, and thus its business affected interstate commerce.

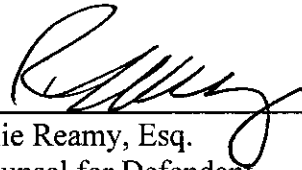
SO STIPULATED:



P. Michael Cunningham
Paul A. Riley
Assistant United States Attorneys



Michael Watts
Defendant



Julie Reamy, Esq.
Counsel for Defendant